

Remarks/Arguments

Prior to this amendment, the instant application contained claims 1-10 submitted in a preliminary amendment filed 10 February 2005 following entry of this application into the national phase. To better distinguish applicants' invention from the prior art, applicants have now cancelled claims 1-4, with claims 5-10 remaining in this application.

Applicants will briefly summarize their invention as recited in claim 5 to assist the examiner in better appreciating the differences between applicants' invention and the art of record. As recited in claim 5, applicants provide a method for identifying a mobile wireless terminal upon a transition of the terminal from a wireless telephony network to a wireless Local Area Network (WLAN). The method commences upon the receipt in the WLAN of identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal. Next, a serving node in the wireless telephony network that last served the mobile wireless terminal prior to transitioning to the wireless LAN is identified. Such identification occurs in accordance with the identity information received from the mobile wireless terminal in the wireless LAN. The identity information includes a Packet Temporary Mobile Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI), a P-TMSI signature and a Routing Area Identifier (RAI). The WLAN forwards the identity information of the mobile wireless terminal to the last-accessed serving node in the wireless telephony network for identification. Lastly, the last-accessed serving node in the wireless telephony network provides an identification response indicating whether the mobile wireless terminal has been properly identified to enable the WLAN to validate the mobile terminal in accordance with the identification response.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) Rejection of Claims 1-10

Claims 1-10 stand rejected in the Official action of 6 October 2005 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0017798 filed 19 January 2001, in the name of Tuija Hurttä et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Hurttä et al patent application publication concerns a technique for transitioning a mobile terminal from one Serving GPRS Support node (SGSN) to another SGSN in a cellular telephone network. To accomplish such a transition, the first SGSN makes use of routing area identifier (RAI) to identify the other SGSN to receive the handoff of the mobile terminal. The

SGSN receiving the handoff makes use a Packet Mobile Temporary Subscriber Identity (P-TMSI) to verify the terminal.

The Hurтта patent basically describes the handoff procedure outlined in the 3GPP Universal Mobile Telephone System (UMTS) standard for transitioning a mobile terminal from one SGSN to another SGSN. Pending claims 5-10 specifically recite handoff of a mobile terminal from a wireless telephony network to a wireless local area network (WLAN), such as a wireless hotspot making use of the IEEE 802.11 communication protocol, a problem not addressed or contemplated in the Hurтта et al. patent.

Applicants' invention solves the problem associated with present day WLANs which typically lack any type of user identification (userID) except for an Internet Mobile Subscriber Identity presently used for authentication (identification and verification). A mobile terminal broadcasting its IMSI in an effort to gain authentication by the WLAN could lead to a breach of security if some one were to detect that IMSI which remains unencrypted.

To avoid this problem, applicants make use of the P-TMSI allocated by the SGSN in the 3G network for mapping into the IMSI. The use of the P-TMSI occurs after the mobile terminal transitions to a WLAN for authentication purposes. The SGSN with the 3G network makes use the RAI (using a lookup table) in the WLAN to find out the last attached-to SGSN of the mobile and verifies the identity of the user with such information. This is the only functionality of a SGSN that the WLAN needs to support. Thus, applicants claimed technique affords a functionality in the WLAN that enable smooth transitions between the WLAN and 3G by reusing 3G authentication procedures in the WLAN.

Given that the Hurтта et al. patent does not concern itself with accomplishing a transition of a mobile terminal from a 3G cellular network to a WLAN, the Hurтта et al. patent would not teach or suggest applicants' step recited in claim 5 of:

receiving **in the wireless LAN** from the mobile wireless terminal identity information previously used by the mobile wireless terminal to access the wireless telephony network.

Further, the Hurтта et al. patent fails to disclose the means for performing this step recited in claim 9. Therefore, claims 5 and 9, and the claims that depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over the Hurтта et al. patent. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 5-10 is requested.

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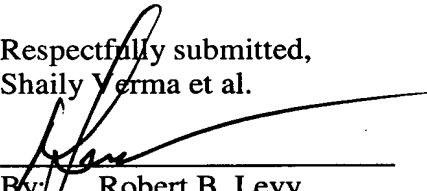
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the accompany remarks, applicants solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If, however, the Examiner believes such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6820, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Kindly charge the cost of the additional independent claim, as well as any other fees that may be due, to Deposit Account **07-0832**.

Respectfully submitted,
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